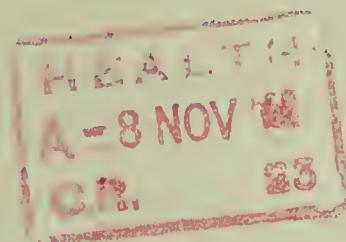


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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYSTON



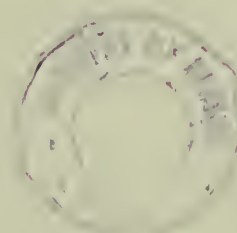
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1959



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Town Hall,
ROYSTON,
Herts.

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year

1959.

Councillor H. A. Stearn, J.P., Ph.C., M.P.S.,
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1959 - 1960

COUNCILLORS:

H. G. HADDOCK, J.P.
Chairman of the Council

LADY JOAN NEWMAN
Vice-Chairman of the Council

A. L. Cain, A.I.E.E.

Mrs. E.A. King

Miss J. P. Etheridge

H. A. Stearn, J.P., Ph.C., M.P.S.

R. J. Gavin

G. W. Stevens

P. L. Jacklin

E. A. Thompson

W. S. Keatley

R. L. Wilkerson

OFFICERS:

Dr. V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

D. J. WALKER,
Clerk of the Council

S. M. JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,
Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the
Royston Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As directed by the Ministry of Health Circular 1/60 I present my Annual Report for the year 1959.

This year the local birth rate (20.0) is seen considerably to exceed that for England and Wales (16.5).

The local death rate (12.0) is rather above the National rate (11.6) but application of the supplied comparability factor (0.96) gives a standardised death rate of 11.5 .

Locally there was no infectious outbreak during the year.

I would acknowledge the assistance in the preparation of this Report from Mr. S.M. Jackson, your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the sections on sanitary matters. Also I would like to thank your Council and its Chief Officers for every consideration during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

VICTOR R. WALKER

Medical Officer of Health

June, 1960.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)		1,626
Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1959		5,750
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1960 (estimated)..		1,792
Rateable Value (1st April, 1960)		£81,920
Sum represented by Penny Rate (estimated - 1960-61) ..		£332.-s.-d.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1959

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Royston Urban District</u>	<u>Comparable rate for England and Wales</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	111	62	49		
(Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>		
(All	115	66	49		
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	20.0	16.5
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	3.5	
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	5	4	1		
(Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		
(All	5	4	1		
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..	..	41.7	20.7
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>	120	70	50		
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>DEATHS</u>	69	26	43		
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	12.0	11.6
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (Under 1 week	2	2	-		
(1 - 4 weeks	-	-	-		
(4 - 52 weeks	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		
(All	2	2	-		
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>					
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	17.4	22.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	18.0	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	Nil	
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	17.4	15.8
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	17.4	
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	..	..	..	59.1	
<u>Maternal Mortality</u> (including abortion)					
Number of Deaths	..	..	..	None	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..	..	0.0	0.34

Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year local population shows a further increase of 250 over the previous year. Live births (115) were 25 more and local deaths (69) 8 more than for 1958.

SECTION B

Provision of Health Services for the Area

No important change took place during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses and a small light engineering works in the Eagle Tavern Area, and the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Royston Water Company Ltd., by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

Again, as in previous years, water was carted to the premises in the Eagle Tavern area during dry spells.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations were made during the year and analysis shows the water to be in a satisfactory chemical and bacteriological condition and suitable for drinking.

The supply to domestic and other premises was maintained throughout the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Forty nine new houses built by private enterprise, and ten new houses built by the Council were connected to the sewage system during the year.

There are thirty five houses in the district not connected to the sewerage system which drain to cesspools or septic tanks. The Council empty these cesspools once a year free of charge.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal and disposal for the year amounted to £3,487.

Efforts to find a new refuse tip proved abortive and after sealing off the existing tip faces and surface with chalk and soil, tipping of a further layer of refuse over the surface was commenced. This is proving satisfactory, and it has been possible to obtain sufficient covering material to keep the tipped refuse in a reasonably clean condition.

This method will give a respite for the next few years while the possibility of obtaining further tipping space is being pursued.

Spraying of the tip with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatments against rat infestation was carried out during the year with satisfactory results.

Rodent Control

The Rodent Control Scheme has worked smoothly throughout the year.

The operator attended an Instructional Course arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which he found of great interest and benefit.

Two Contracts were entered into during the year for the regular treatment of the premises.

Other work carried out during the twelve months was as follows:-

Total number of private premises treated	-	75
Total number of local authority premises treated, including tip	-	6
Total number of business premises treated	-	8
Total number of sewer maintenance treatments	-	2

The total number of inspections made by Officers of the Public Health Department and the Operator during the year was 219, including 6 inspections of agricultural land and 4 block inspections.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts	61
Under the Public Health Acts	219
Under the Factory Acts	52
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	10
Milk and Dairies Orders	6
Food Shops and Stores	134
Bakehouse Inspections	8

Prevention of Nuisances	102
House Drainage	21
Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	132
Rats and Mice Destruction	219
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	14
Miscellaneous Inspections	112

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:

Statutory Notices Served	-
Informal Notices served	103
Notices complied with	101
Houses demolished	17
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal action	-
Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	49
Houses roofs renewed or repaired	21
House windows repaired	31
House chimneys repaired	2
House floors renewed or repaired	19
House ceilings renewed or repaired	10
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	4
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	32
Internal wall plaster repaired	16
House drains relaid or repaired	206 yds.
Gullies fixed	14
Intercepting traps fixed	2
New sinks fixed	12
Sinks renewed or repaired	2
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	14
W.C. roofs repaired	6
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	12
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	39
New Baths fixed	8
Inspection chambers built	10
Inspection chambers repaired	4
New vent shafts fixed	2
New F.A.I. fixed	14
Water Service pipes repaired	41
Dampness remedied	18
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	10
Hot water systems renewed or repaired	-
Staircases repaired	4
Blocked drains cleared and cleansed	54
Accumulations of rubbish removed	29
Houses disinfected	2
Bakehouse floors cleansed	2
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	1
Bakehouse ceilings cleansed	2
Sanitary conveniences at Factories repaired	2
Sanitary conveniences at Factories cleansed	2
Sanitary conveniences provided at Building sites	6

Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning

Plans and applications submitted	123
Plans and applications withdrawn	9
Plans and applications approved	94
Plans and applications disapproved	16
Plans and applications decision pending	4
Approved for new estates and houses	17
Approved for other buildings	60
Approved for change of user	6
Approved for advertisement signs	2
Approved for use of land and for layouts	9
New houses completed:-	
By local authority under Housing Acts	10
By private enterprise	49
Other buildings completed	36
Drains laid to above	2,564 yds.
Gullies laid to above	194
Connections to sewer	31
Vent shafts fixed	91
Inspection of chambers built	114
Water closets fixed	73
Intercepting traps fixed	29
Baths fixed	65
Sinks fixed	62
Lavatory basins fixed	68
Dustbins provided	94

SECTION D

Housing

During the year 10 new traditional brick houses were built by the Council and became occupied. Of these, 4 were one bedroom bungalows for old people and 6 were two bedroom houses.

Forty nine new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

No requisitioned property is held by the Council.

The number of properties for which Improvement Grants were approved during the year was 1.

Slum Clearance Programme

Houses in Slum Clearance Areas were inspected and information laid before the Council in respect of the following:-

1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Victoria Terrace
2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16
Mackerel Hall

7 and 9 Queens Road
31, 33, 35, 37 and 39
King Street

Demolition Orders were made in respect of Nos. 31, 33, 35 and 39 King Street and Nos. 10, 12, 14 and 16 Mackerel Hall. Also in respect of Nos. 11 and 13 Market Hill.

Undertakings under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957, were accepted in respect of No. 37 King Street, No. 1/3 Garden Lane, Nos. 4, 6, 8 and 10 The Warren and Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8 Mackerel Hall.

Seventeen houses in Clearance Areas Nos. 8, 11, 12 and 13 were demolished.

During the year, 21 families were rehoused from Clearance Areas and houses under Demolition Orders. The total number of persons displaced was 39.

Rent Act, 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued during the year.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises in the District

The food premises, mobile food vendors, and stalls selling food-stuffs are classified according to the type in the following list. The total number given will exceed the actual number of premises as many sell various classes of foodstuffs.

	<u>Shops</u>	<u>Mobile Shops</u>	<u>Stalls</u>
Butchers	6	1	-
Grocers	18	2	1
Greengrocers	7	1	5
Wet Fish	3	-	-
Cafes	5	-	-
Fried Fish Shops	4	1	-
Dealers in Sweets	20	-	1
Dealers in Cakes	6	1	2
Dealers in Bread	4	1	-
Beer etc. (Off Licence)	1	-	-
Wines and Spirits etc. (Off Licence)	2	-	-
Public Houses	12	-	-
Egg Packing Station	1	-	-

Premises Registered Under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

There are 15 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, together with 3 selling from vans not subject to registration in this District.

Fish Fryers 4, with 2 vehicles acting as mobile fried fish shops not subject to registration in this area.

There is also a factory in this District where sweets are manufactured. This is a branch works of Messrs. Barratt & Company Ltd. of Wood Green, London.

Dairies (Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54)

There are four milk producers in the District, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the District.

Periodic inspections of dairies were made during the year.

The Council's area is part of the Specified Areas Scheme which requires that only milk of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the District from premises situated outside the Urban Area.

Inspections of Registered Food Premises

During the year 148 inspections were made to the premises enumerated above. In the case of the registered premises, there is nothing worthy of comment, all the premises being of a good standard and well maintained.

Educational activity in connection with Foods

There have been no activities such as Lectures, Clean Food Guilds and so on, but in a small community such as this there is a close personal approach between the Officers and the food handlers, and a good deal of informal advice and instruction has resulted in a steady all-round improvement in protection of food in storage, display and general handling.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and no slaughtering of animals was carried on in the District during the year.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected during the year.

Other Foods

Other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed:-

Tinned and Packaged Food

Jellied Veal	2 x 6 lb. tins
Ham	97 lbs. 7 oz.
Pork Luncheon Meat	2 x 12 oz. tins
Beef Steak	1 x 16 oz. tin
Corned Beef	1 x 6 lb. tin
	1 x 12 oz. tin
Chopped Pork	1 x 4 lb. tin
Turkey	1 bird (12 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs)

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

The various requirements under these Regulations are being enforced. Washbasins, sinks with hot and cold water, together with the necessary cloths, towels, soap, nail brushes, were in most cases provided in the preceding year, but in this town some of the premises being hundreds of years old do not lend themselves to the twentieth century standard of food hygiene. Consequently, some firms, faced with comprehensive alteration of premises, have been considering the acquisition of other premises, or with the entire or partial rebuilding of their present premises. A certain amount of delay is thereby occasioned, but the general picture is one of steady improvement.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

Green Plunge Swimming Pool

Samples of water were taken from the above and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes throughout the season during which the pool was open.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	12	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	28	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers).	7	12	-	-
Total	47	52	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	4	4	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
Total	11	11	-	-	-

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

For the year 1959, the total notifications of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Measles 17, and Acute Pneumonia 1.

Whooping cough, due probably to its present mild severity, is seen not to have once been notified.

Immunisation. The measures against both whooping cough and diphtheria continue popular with parents of young children and are obtainable from both general practitioners and the welfare centre. The special sessions for vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis have also been strongly attended by the permitted age and special groups.

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TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1959

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2+(2)	-(1)	-(1)	-	-	-	-	-

Footnote:

In addition to the new cases first notified within the district there is shown (in brackets) additional figures of cases transferred to the local registrar from other areas.

Comment:

New notifications are seen to be confined to two (respiratory), the same figure as for 1958; both cases were elderly males. No death from any form of tuberculosis occurred in the district during the year.

VICTOR R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health

June, 1960.

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